

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

11150 EAST BOULEVARD AT UNIVERSITY CIRCLE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106 CABLE ADDRESS: MUSART CLEVELAND
SHERMAN E. LEE, DIRECTOR TELEPHONE: 421-7340

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EXHIBITION OF FOUR CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS TO BE AT THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

A special exhibition, Four Contemporary Painters: Arakawa, Bruce Boice, Ronald Davis, and Agnes Martin, opens at The Cleveland Museum of Art in the Museum's upper level exhibition gallery on September 20. The exhibition, which runs through October 29, will consist of 14 large scale paintings, three by Agnes Martin, four by Ronald Davis, four by Bruce Boice, and three by Arakawa. The largest painting, a work by Arakawa, will be 24 feet in length.

A concern with geometric compositions and rational painting systems is the bond between these four artists. However, each brings to his or her paintings a unique vision and means of working. Agnes Martin uses vertical and horizontal lines to define simple geometrical shapes, while Bruce Boice relies on broad areas of flat color. Arakawa is involved in a conceptual approach to the creative act and uses a personal vocabulary of letters and words, and Ronald Davis stains canvases upon which he paints illusionistic shapes.

Agnes Martin, the oldest of the four artists, was born in Saskatchewan, Canada, in 1912 and came to the United States in 1932. Having worked and taught on the West Coast, in the Southwest, and in New York, she now lives in New Mexico. She has had many one woman shows and taken part in numerous group exhibitions.

Arakawa was born in Japan in 1936, moved to the United States in 1961, and now lives and works in New York City. His paintings have been extensively exhibited in this country, Europe, and Japan.

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Ronald Davis, born in California in 1937, was raised in Wyoming. Before beginning painting in 1959, he was an engineering student and worked as a radio announcer and a sheet metal machinist. He studied painting at the San Francisco Art Institute and the Yale-Norfolk School of Music and Art.

Bruce Boice is the youngest of the artists in the exhibition. Born in New Jersey in 1942, he studied philosophy and was an art critic for Artforum magazine before he began to devote all his time to painting. His work has been exhibited in the United States and Europe. He lives and works in New York.

The Museum's Associate Curator of Modern Art, Tom Hinson, organized the exhibition and wrote a small accompanying catalog. Describing the exhibition he said, "A planned approach to painting and the use of geometry are interests shared by these artists, although the results are quite different. An exhibition such as this gives us a chance to show the work of contemporary artists in whom we have been interested for some time and to bring to Cleveland a selection of the current painting being done outside this region that is receiving national and international attention. These artists should be of particular interest to many people in this area, since a number of Cleveland artists employ geometry and systems to organize their work."

Gallery talks will be given at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27, and Sunday, October 1. This exhibition is assisted by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact David Patterson, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.